

RETI Environmental Work Group
Meeting Notes, July 10, 2008 call

- Steering Committee Members: Johanna Wald (NRDC); Carl Zichella (Sierra Club); Katie Sloan for Gary Allen (SCE); Anne Gillette (CPUC); Clare Laufenberg (CEC); John McCaull (Geothermal Rep); Dariush Shirmohammadi (Wind Industry Rep); Karen Mills (Farm Bureau).
- Other Participants: Ric O'Connell (Black & Veatch); Billie Blanchard (CPUC); Joseph Merrill (CEC host), Paul Richens (CEC); Rachel Gold (Solar Millennium); Arthur Haubenstock (Bright Source); Ryan Drobek (CEERT); Monica Argandona (California Wilderness Coalition); Kenneth Stein (FPL); Ileene Anderson (Center for Biological Diversity); Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife); Alice Bond (Wilderness Society), Brenda LeMay (Horizon Wind); Mark Lausten (DOE); Jim Bartridge (CEC).

Coordinators: Rich Ferguson, Dave Olsen

On the call we:

- Approved the proposed methodology for creation of an environmental supply curve which will be compared to the monetary/economic supply curve for use in identifying the CREZs that will be carried forward to Phase 2. Agreed that this methodology will include a review cycle for those CREZs where environmental and economic objectives don't coincide. Agreed that the EWG would recommend the methodology to the SSC.
- Approved the proposal for "data and rating formula for environmental criteria" which will be used to create the environmental supply curve, subject to the understanding that several criteria and formulas needed refinement. Agreed that the EWG would recommend to the SSC as a working document that represents how we propose to rate CREZs and that would be refined as discussed below.
- Prior to agreeing, discussed the impact on cultural resources criterion, introduced by Billie Blanchard of the CPUC. We affirmed that RETI would not release sensitive cultural resources data and that cultural resources would continue to be counted as point occurrences. Discussion on ways to more accurately count the impacts on cultural resources was begun.
- Prior to agreeing, discussed the impact on undisturbed lands criterion, introduced by Karen Mills of the Farm Bureau. The definition of "undisturbed" and/or "disturbed" land was referred to a subcommittee.
- Prior to agreeing, discussed the species richness and significant species criteria, introduced by Ryan Drobek of CEERT. How to best characterize the impact on biological systems with existing data was referred to a subcommittee to address.
- Discussed the Wet versus Dry cooling proposal from Rachel Gold and Arthur Haubenstock. Since the base assumption of that proposal is that no groundwater can be used, it was decided that the proposal would have no environmental impacts. However Paul Richens had a concern about one of the numbers in the proposal and volunteered to work on it with Rachel and Arthur.
- Reaffirmed that only fully adopted HCPs and NCCPs would be used as category 2 land.

Actions taken:

- A subcommittee will meet to define the terms disturbed and/or undisturbed land. To join the subcommittee, please email Johanna Wald at jwald@nrdc.org.
- A subcommittee will meet to discuss improvements to the proposed species diversity and significant species criteria. To join the subcommittee, please email Johanna.
- Generator representatives for each technology will look at B&V's assumptions on footprint size for projects and agree on a set of assumptions for the EWG to use for its estimates of footprint.(continued from last week's call)